

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON RESERVATIONS, ETC.

JUNE 28, 1898.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ELLIS, from the Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 7937.]

The Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7937) entitled "A bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors on reservations and in buildings controlled by the United States," beg leave to submit the following report and recommend that said bill do pass, with amendments as follows:

In line 4, section 1, after the word "sell," strike out "or."

In the same line, after the word "way," insert "or otherwise dispose of."

In line 5 of the same section, after the word "reservation," strike out the words "or territory exclusively."

Also strike out all of section 1 after the word "Government," in line 7.

Amend the title to read as follows: "A bill to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors on any reservation or in any building under control of the United States Government, and for other purposes."

But few bills before the present Congress have had the support of so many petitioners as the one under consideration. Your committee, after giving the matter earnest and careful consideration, have reached the unanimous conclusion that but few if any reasons exist why the United States Government should engage in the liquor traffic, even to the extent of legalizing or permitting the sale of intoxicants within its immigrant stations, soldiers' homes, military posts, or any other buildings under its control, including the Capitol or other Government buildings within the District of Columbia, or any reservation upon which any of said buildings are situated.

Numerous reasons exist why the Government should not only discourage but absolutely prohibit the sale of all intoxicants in all buildings and upon all grounds within the scope of this bill. To the average mind it seems inconsistent that the Congress of the United States should enact laws prohibiting the sale of intoxicants within a certain specified distance of a schoolhouse or church in the District of Columbia, or within 1 mile of the Soldiers' Home of the District. And notwithstanding all this painstaking care on the part of our national lawmakers it is not necessary to go outside of the four walls of the building wherein these laws are enacted in order to purchase any and all kinds of intoxicating liquors. It may be said by some that such sales are a violation of existing laws. But in order to remove any

doubt that may exist the American Congress should not hesitate to pass a law which would say to our country in no uncertain terms, intoxicants are not necessary incentives to needed and wholesome legislation.

During the Fifty-fourth Congress a bill passed the House making it unlawful to sell any kind of intoxicating liquors in the Capitol building, but it did not become a law, notwithstanding the fact that the vote by which it passed the House was almost unanimous.

The testimony given in the hearings before the committee will allow us to reach but one conclusion, and that is that the so-called "canteen" system, adopted by certain Soldiers' Homes and military posts, is detrimental, not only to the discipline and general welfare of these institutions, but has a general demoralizing effect and no corresponding benefit. O. O. Howard, major-general of the United States Army (retired), who has given the question much consideration from the standpoint of a military man, says:

Every since the prospect of sending an army to our Southern border and probably to Cuba has been made apparent to me, my mind has reverted to the necessity of letting every officer and soldier know that alcohol will not help the digestion, and that alcoholic drink will be the best possible means to produce unfitness for service, unfitness to endure the miasma of swamps, and the dangers from yellow fever. I have conversed with excellent physicians who say that there need be no unusual exposure in the campaigns proposed or prospective, if proper hygienic precautions be taken, which includes abstinence from liquors.

Ella M. Thatcher, national superintendentsoldiers and sailors' department of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, in commenting upon the effect of the "canteen" system, says:

I want to bring before you some statistics from the report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897.

On page 8 of Document No. 27 you will find amount expended for maintenance of Home, less construction, \$2,166,809.37.

Annual cost of maintenance, each man, \$119.23.

Average number present and absent, 22,684 men.

Pensioners, 23,330 men.

Pensions paid direct	\$2, 003, 174. 71
Amount sent to families	557, 609. 34
Average amount of pensions	109. 76

Amount expended for pensions	2, 560, 784. 05
Amount expended for maintenance	2, 166, 809. 37

Total (for one year)	4, 727, 593. 42
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On page 44 you will find—

Beer hall sales	\$234, 154. 33
Hotel sales, \$21,378.41. It would be fair to say that one-half of this is received from the soldiers, as they are allowed to go to the hotel and buy if they also buy a lunch; one-half would be	10, 689. 20
Total	244, 843. 53

You can readily see that one-tenth of the pension money given is spent in the beer hall. Would it not be economy for our Government to close the beer hall and keep the money for the old soldier? The sights at Hampton are appalling. A long parade drawn up around the beer hall, and from early morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon it marches steadily onward and is reviewed by old soldiers handing out the beer to their comrades as fast as it can be drawn by the men back of the bar. As I stood on the outside of the hall and saw this sight I could not help but wish that all of you gentlemen of the "alcoholic committee" could be there also and see for yourselves. Is it not a farce to raise and maintain these Homes at such a very heavy expense to our country for the protection of the old veteran and then place an enemy within their door to drag them down to a drunkard's death and a drunkard's hell? Four million seven hundred and twenty-seven thousand eight hundred and nine dollars and thirty-seven cents paid out from our country's Treasury for pensions and maintenance, and one-twentieth and more of it wasted to create a taste

for something stronger, which they purchase outside of the gates as soon as they are allowed to go out. Five days they are kept in and not allowed out. After that the seventy saloons and brothels situated as near the gate as possible (at Phœbus) are opened like huge jaws to take them in and crush them. This bill should not only become a law, but should have added to it "that no saloon or no alcoholic drinks should be sold within a radius of 2 miles around these Homes."

I have taken the pains to go all over the money affairs and write down all the figures. For instance, Dayton Home, Central Branch, spent in beer hall \$88,946.65. About one-ninth of pensions spent in beer hall, and little more than one-fifth sent to families, who should look to the husband and father for support. I would that these figures might be printed in large figures, so that you might have them before your own eyes, and yet that might not convince you of the evil. But were you to visit Dayton or Hampton the evil effects would be seen readily.

This curse should not be placed in forts and the Navy. Do you know that the young manhood of this nation is being debauched, and if these beer halls are kept open our men will not be strong enough to fight against any foe that might attack us, for health, strength, and will power are gone—all the life blasted by the dreadful insidious foe?

I am told that the governor in the Washington National Home, which has no "canteen" in it and no saloon within a radius of a mile, says he would not want it in this Home, and there are only about 20 drunkards in the Home, and if they were out there would be no trouble of this kind. I am sure the governors of these Homes would say that the largest per cent of their troubles in discipline comes from the drink.

I pray God that our plea may be heeded and the time soon come when it shall be said that our loved nation will not tempt men to do wrong, but will make it easy for them to do right.

Statistics from the Inspector-General's report of the National Soldiers' Homes.

CENTRAL BRANCH, DAYTON, OHIO.

[6,000 men (absent and present); 5,003 men present by expenditure account.]

	Amount.	Per capita.
General expenditure.....	\$591,629.18	\$117.55
Amount paid to pensions.....	755,250.23	118.15
Total cost.....	1,346,879.41	235.70
Pension sent to families.....	159,535.08	25.42

Six thousand men in Home, but 6,392 pensioners credited with pensions. Sales beer hall, \$88,946.65; per capita, \$17.78; expense beer hall, \$46,173.88; profit, \$42,772.77.

Charges for drunkenness, 502 men; treated for alcoholism, 195 men; membership gold cure, 210 men.

About one-ninth of pension spent in beer hall; 1,577 married or having living wives or minor children, or both.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, MILWAUKEE, WIS.

[2,769 men (absent and present); 2,368 men present by expenditure account.]

	Amount.	Per capita.
General expenditure.....	\$283,413.17	\$119.64
Pensions.....	293,271.41	105.68
Total.....	576,689.58	225.32
Pensions sent to families.....	73,147.00	26.36
Pensioners, 2,775.		
Beer-hall sales.....	35,990.00	15.40
Beer-hall expenses.....	18,571.75	
Profit.....	17,411.25	

Charges for drunkenness, 402 men; treated for alcoholism, 12 men. One-eighth of pension spent in beer hall; 911 married, or having living wives or minor children.

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EASTERN BRANCH, TOGUS, ME.

[2,559 men (absent and present); 1,973 men present by expenditure account.]

	Amount.	Per capita.
General expenditures.....	\$249,550.04	\$126.47
Pensions.....	260,995.74	100.81
Total.....	510,545.78	227.28
Pensions sent to families.....	71,889.82	27.77
Pensioners, 2,589.		
Beer-hall sales.....	34,156.08	17.31
Beer-hall expenses.....	12,076.21	
Profit.....	22,079.87	

Charges for drunkenness, 333 men; treated for alcoholism, 108 men; about one-eighth pension spent in beer hall; 2,133 married or having living wives or minor children.

SOUTHERN BRANCH, HAMPTON, VA.

[4,532 men (absent and present); 3,707 men present by expenditure account.]

	Amount.	Per capita.
General expenditures.....	\$387,810.80	\$104.58
Pensions.....	515,571.89	120.40
Total.....	903,382.19	224.98
Pensions sent to families.....	129,194.76	30.17
Pensioners, 4,282.		
Beer-hall sales.....	42,158.75	11.37
Beer-hall expenses.....	16,023.67	
Profit.....	26,135.08	

Charges for drunkenness, 913 men; treatment for alcoholism, 77 men; one-twelfth of pensions spent in beer hall; 2,591 married or having living wives or minor children.

WESTERN BRANCH, LEAVENWORTH, KANS.

[3,111 men (absent and present); 2,495 men present by expenditure account.]

	Amount.	Per capita.
General expenditures.....	\$274,744.72	\$110.40
Pensions paid.....	347,644.72	101.73
Total.....	622,389.45	212.13
Pensions sent to families.....	122,640.18	35.91
Pensioners, 3,415.		
Beer-hall sales.....	22,907.75	9.15
Beer-hall expenses.....	11,168.03	
Profit.....	11,739.72	

Charges for drunkenness, 280 men; treated for alcoholism, 6 men; one-sixteenth of pension spent in beer hall; 1,283 married or having living wives or minor children; 1,407 cases treated. Abolished Keeley Institute.

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PACIFIC BRANCH, CALIFORNIA.

[2,037 men (absent and present); 1,798 men present by expenditure account.]

	Amount.	Per capita.
General expenditures.....	\$239,370.94	\$133.39
Pensions paid.....	189,679.08	106.85
Total.....	429,050.02	240.24
Pensions sent to families.....	None.	
Pensioners, 1,776.		
Beer-hall sales.....	9,995.10	5.56
Beer-hall expenditures.....	5,224.20	
Profit.....	4,770.90	

Charges for drunkenness, 8 men; treated for alcoholism, 14 men; one-twentieth of pension spent in beer hall; 563 married, or having living wives or minor children; gold cure, 143.

Aggregate statistics of National Homes.

Amount expended for Homes, less construction.....	\$2,166,809.37
Annual cost of each man, \$119.23.	
Average number absent and present, 22,684 men; pensioners, 23,330 men.	
Pensions received.....	2,003,174.41
Total.....	4,169,983.78
Average amount of pensions.....	109.76
Beer-hall sales.....	234,154.33
Beer-hall expenditures.....	109,237.74
Profit.....	124,916.59
Average amount spent by each man.....	10.32
Pensions sent to families.....	557,609.34
Average pension sent by each man.....	23.90

Nearly one-tenth of pensions spent in beer hall.

It is certainly the desire of every good citizen of this country that the first impression made upon the immigrant when landing upon our shores should be a good one; coming as he does to better his condition in life, he should first see and know something of our best institutions in order to form a proper idea of this country. We have many institutions in this country, national in character, of which we as Americans are proud, but our saloon system is not one of them. The newcomer to our land should not receive his first introduction to American ways in a saloon. In the opinion of your committee, no good reason exists why the present system of permitting beer selling in Government immigrant stations should continue. Mrs. Margaret Dye Ellis, superintendent of legislation and Christian citizenship of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, who has given the subject much and careful consideration, says:

At the immigrant station of New York beer has been sold to the immigrants for the past five years, who can buy when they like and as much as they choose, so long as they have the money to pay for it. It is a common sight for young men, who land in the morning bright and sober, to be very much the worse for liquor in the afternoon, and have not been out of the building, and upon being questioned as to where they obtained their drinks and who took their money, point to the bar run by the United States Government. The first money spent by them in this country the first day of their arrival is to the United States for that which steals away their brains and makes them unfit to care for themselves or those dependent upon them, and an easy prey to the vultures who swarm about ready to pounce upon their victim and fleece him, leaving him like the stranger in the Bible on his way to Jericho, "who fell among thieves" and was left to die. The parties having the monopoly of

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selling provisions at the Barge Office, in spite of promises which they have made again and again, are selling no tea, coffee, or milk, although hundreds and thousands of women and children are kept there for hours. Think of these people, after being huddled together like sheep in the steerage for days, mothers with little children, sick, faint, weary, wanting a cup of tea, but nothing but beer to be had; think of these little children needing, craving a cup of milk, and nothing but beer for them! Yes, plenty of that! What wonder that nine-tenths of the 250,000 saloon keepers in this country are foreigners, for Uncle Sam taught them at the very entrance of this new world how easy it is to make money by selling the drink. Shame upon us, and we a Christian nation!

During 1897 nearly 300,000 immigrants passed through the barge office in New York City. In January, 1898, 8,293; in February, 1898, 1,062. Surely we owe a duty to these people, to protect them from these unprincipled men, who for the love of greed hold back nourishing drinks, and only provide that which will bring in the largest gain. Every prominent official there has been interviewed and agrees that it would be far better not to have it on sale. Dr. Tenner, the chief commissioner, a German, and not a total abstainer, declared that all the trouble he had with his employees there arose from liquor. Dr. Wheeler, physician in charge, was very sure that the beer was deleterious in all its effects, and the port would be in much better condition were it entirely banished. Mr. McSweeney, the assistant United States commissioner, is entirely opposed to it, and said if he had his way not a drop more would be sold there. Father McCaul, missionary priest, declares: "It exerts more evil influences than all other causes combined. Many immigrants are not accustomed to its use, and coming in an official way it commends itself, and the first steps toward frequenting the saloon is there laid." "Especially is this a most pernicious influence in the case of young girls," he said. "It would be good work enough for a lifetime to get it banished." The testimony of every missionary there is that affairs were far more orderly and in better condition every way when, during the Harrison Administration, it was prohibited.

Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts, superintendent of the Reform Bureau, an international incorporated society, having for its president Hon. Charles Lyman, and secretary Rev. F. D. Power, appeared before the committee during the hearing and made a strong argument in general terms in behalf of the bill. He stated that—

The purpose of the bill is that the United States Government shall quit the business of rumselling—the Government in the person of its soldiers tending bars at army and navy canteens. Immigrants first meet the Government as a health officer, next as a rumseller, in the first Government building they enter.

In speaking of the sale of liquors at soldiers' homes, he says:

Liquor selling is thrust into homes, where idleness makes it an unusual temptation. Liquor and leisure never meet but for mischief.

It is not necessary to put into this report the many arguments made by the friends of this bill in its behalf. Suffice it to say that of the many petitions presented to and the many arguments made before the committee, not one protest was received, nor a single argument made against the passage of this measure.

Your committee, after having given the subject earnest and careful consideration, have reached the unanimous conclusion that the bill as amended, if enacted into a law, would result in much good. We therefore recommend that it do pass.